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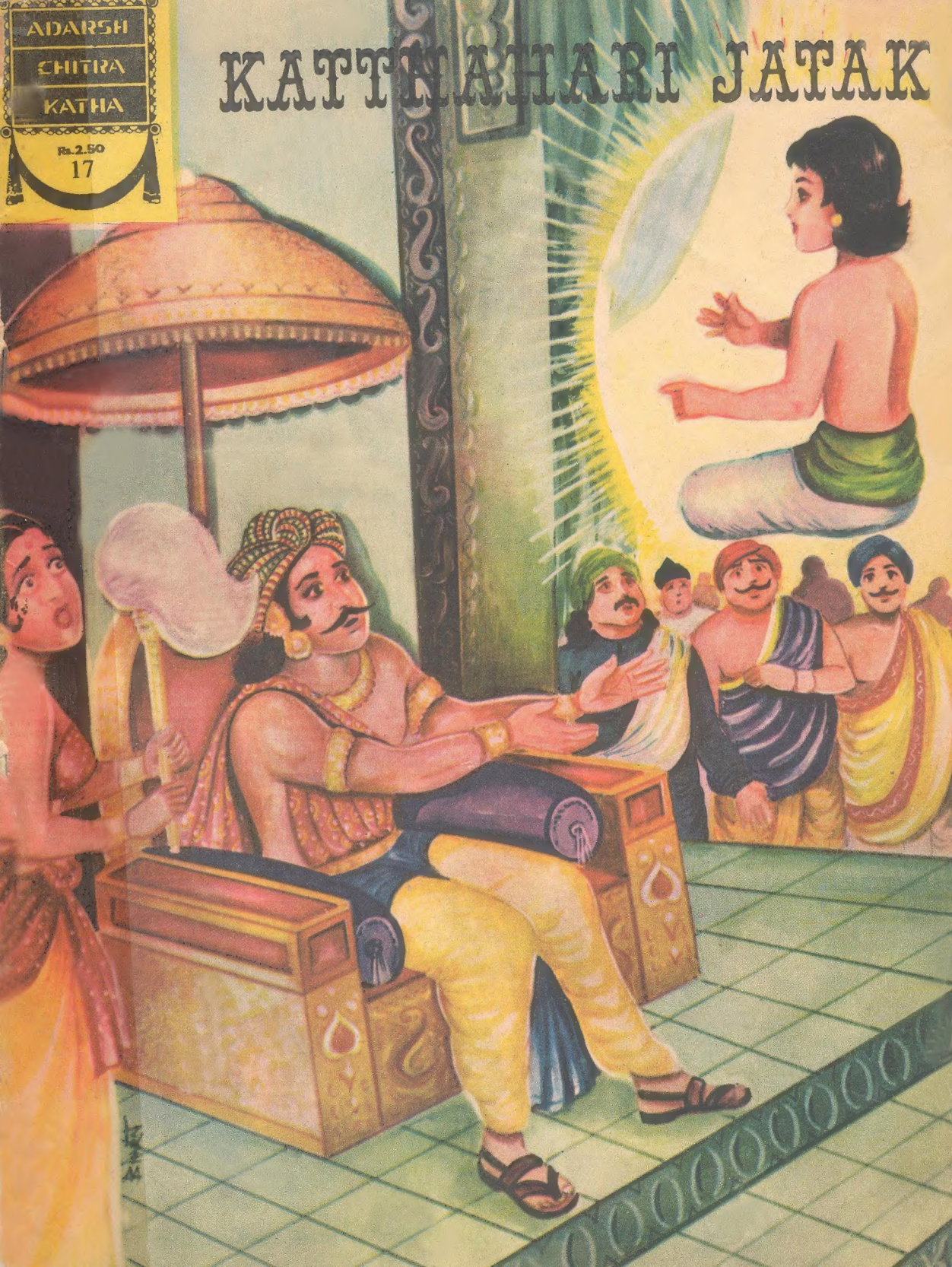
KATTHAHARI JATAK



The Jataka book occupies a supreme position in the early Indian literature. According to Dr. Rhys Davide, "It is the oldest, most complete and most important collection of folklore extant." All Jataka tales refer to the prior births of the Buddha (Bodhisatva).

The present book is based on an original Jataka tale which may remind our readers of Shakuntala of Kalidasa. This Jataka is the oldest and the earliest Jataka which was composed before the christian era.

Editor : D. Kumar Script : Meena V. Talim Art Work : S.M. Kalewar

Our Next Title :

JAISAL AND TORAL

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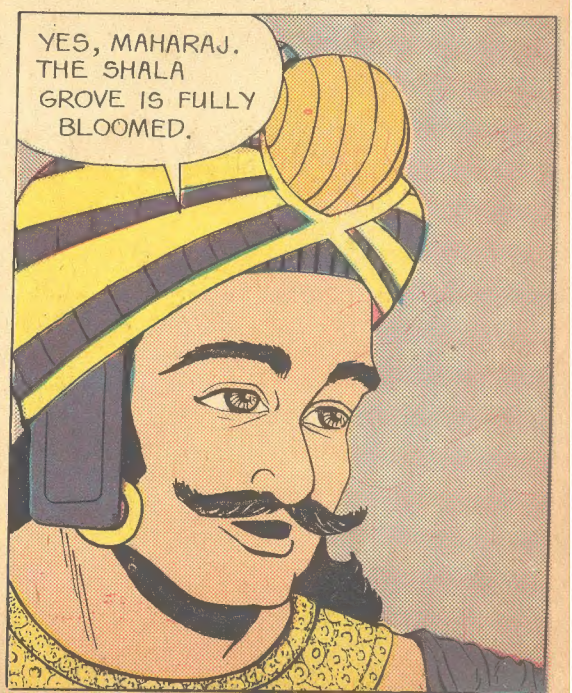
KATTHAHARI JATAKA

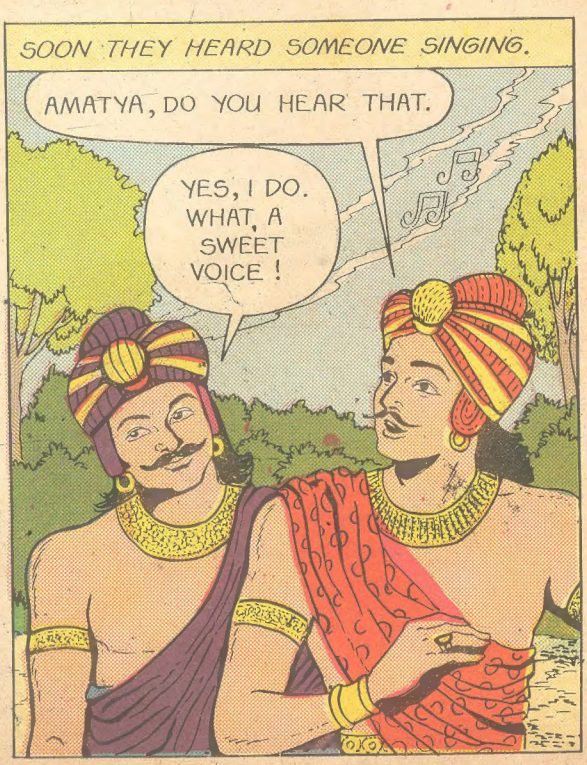
LONG AGO, KING BRAHMADATTA WAS RULING IN VARANASI.



MAKE ARRANGEMENTS, I'LL VISIT THE GARDEN.
ALL RIGHT, MAHARAJ.

THE KING VISITED THE GROVE, ATTENDED BY HIS MINISTER.
WHAT A PLEASANT GROVE !

HOW I WISH TO SPEND MY LIFE HERE !


SOON THEY HEARD SOMEONE SINGING.
AMATYA, DO YOU HEAR THAT.
YES, I DO. WHAT, A SWEET VOICE !

MAY I BRING THE SINGER HERE ?
OH, NO... DON'T DISTURB.

I WILL GO ALONE.
AS YOU PLEASE MAHARAJ.

THE KING STEALTHILY WENT TO THE SPOT.
OH ! SHE IS A MAIDEN.

OH! MM...

DON'T BE AFRAID, KATTHAHARI.* I AM THE KING OF VARANASI.

WHAT IS YOUR NAME ?

KATTHAHARI !

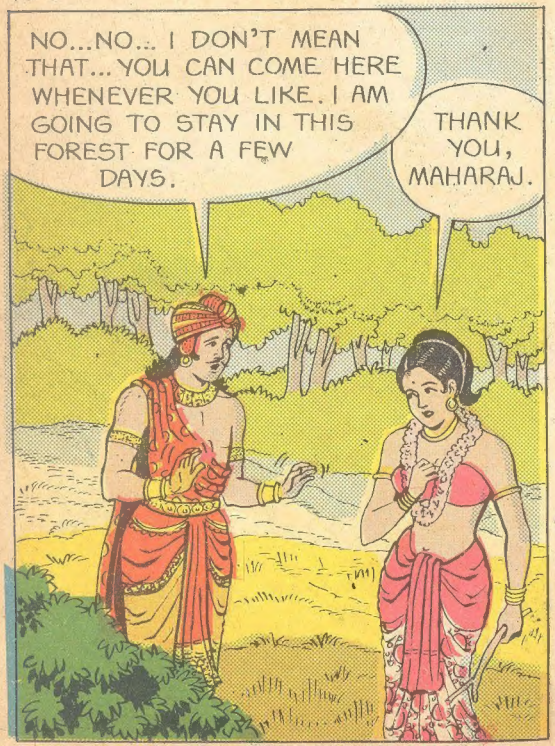
OH ! SHE IS SMART TOO ! DOESN'T WANT TO DISCLOSE HER NAME.

YOU ARE AS SWEET AS YOUR SONG.

THANK YOU MAHARAJ.

WHERE DO YOU LIVE ?
ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THIS FOREST.

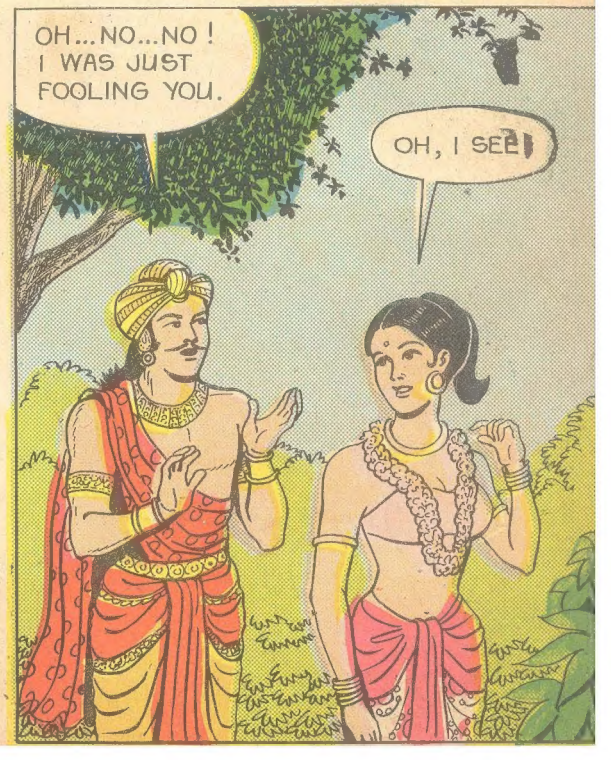
DO YOU COME HERE EVERYDAY TO COLLECT TWIGS ?
YES MAHARAJ. ... ANYTHING WRONG?


NO...NO... I DON'T MEAN THAT... YOU CAN COME HERE WHENEVER YOU LIKE. I AM GOING TO STAY IN THIS FOREST FOR A FEW DAYS.
THANK YOU, MAHARAJ.

BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY TAX.
T...TA...X ?

HMM !
MAHARAJ, I AM POOR. I HAVE TO LOOK AFTER MY OLD WIDOWED MOTHER.

SO WHAT ?
BUT HOW CAN I PAY YOU ? I'LL HAVE TO GO TO ANOTHER FOREST.


OH...NO...NO ! I WAS JUST FOOLING YOU.
OH, I SEE !

BUT THERE IS ONE REQUEST THAT I WISH TO MAKE TO YOU.
REQUEST? AND TO ME?

IS HE AGAIN FOOLING ME?

HMM...!
YES, YOUR MAJESTY. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

YOU WILL COME HERE EVERYDAY AND SING A SONG FOR ME.
BUT, I HAVEN'T LEARNT MUSIC. I SING AS I LIKE.

EXACTLY! I LIKE THE SAME NATURAL MUSIC.

OH MAHARAJ, YOU HAVE HONOURED ME!

SO, IT'S A DEAL NOW!

YES, I'LL COME EVERYDAY.

THUS THEY MET EVERYDAY.

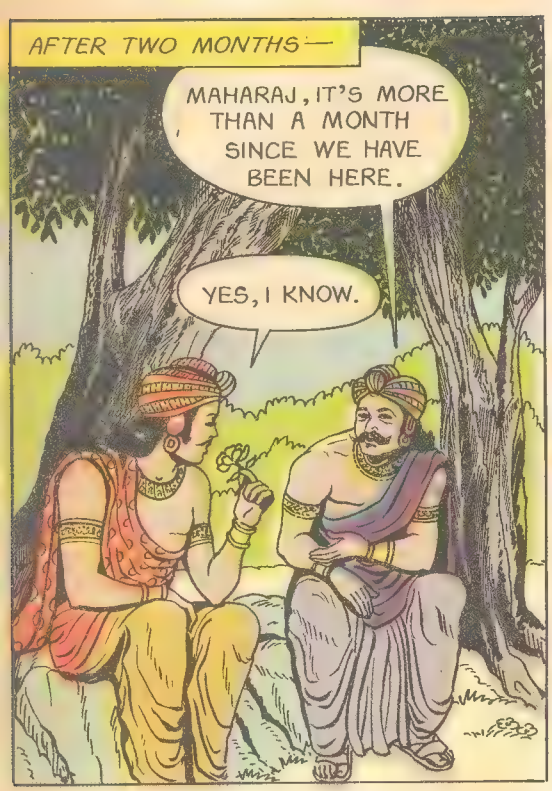
SOON BRAHMADATTA FELL IN LOVE WITH HER. ONE DAY—
BEAUTIFUL ONE, WILL YOU MARRY ME?

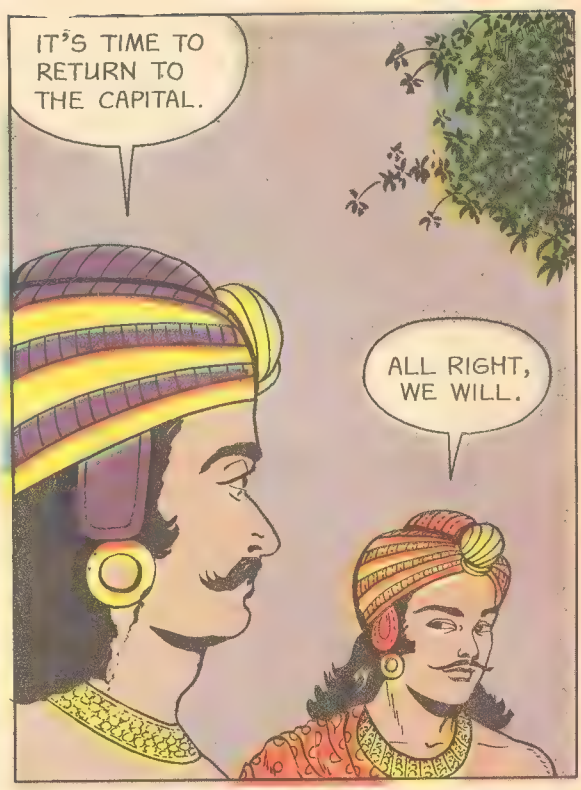
DEAR, WHY ARE YOU QUIET? DON'T YOU LIKE ME?
YES I DO. BUT I AM A RUSTIC MAIDEN AND YOU ARE A KING.

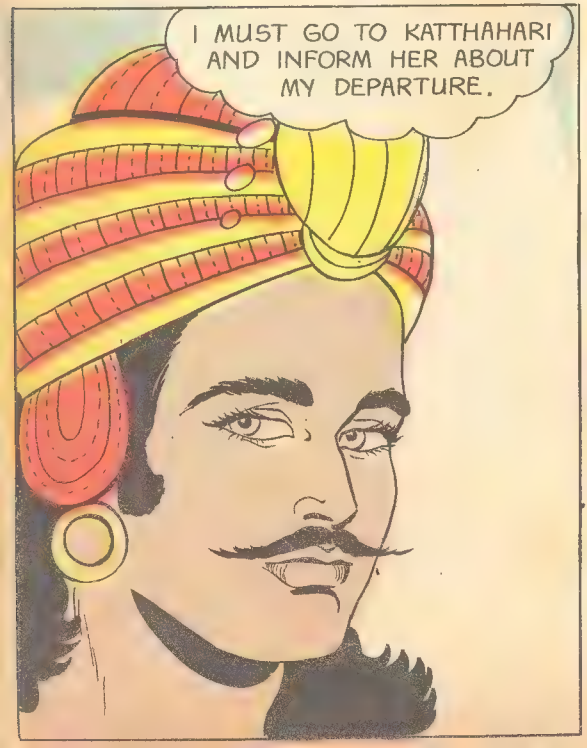
SO WHAT? BELIEVE ME, I MEAN WHAT I SAY.
IN THAT CASE, NO ONE WILL BE SO LUCKY AS ME.

WILL YOUR PEOPLE GIVE CONSENT TO OUR MARRIAGE?
DEAR ONE, LEAVE THAT TO ME.

SOON THEY MARRIED ACCORDING TO GANDHARVA VIVAHA.*


AFTER TWO MONTHS—
MAHARAJ, IT'S MORE THAN A MONTH SINCE WE HAVE BEEN HERE.
YES, I KNOW.


IT'S TIME TO RETURN TO THE CAPITAL.
ALL RIGHT, WE WILL.


I MUST GO TO KATTHAHARI AND INFORM HER ABOUT MY DEPARTURE.

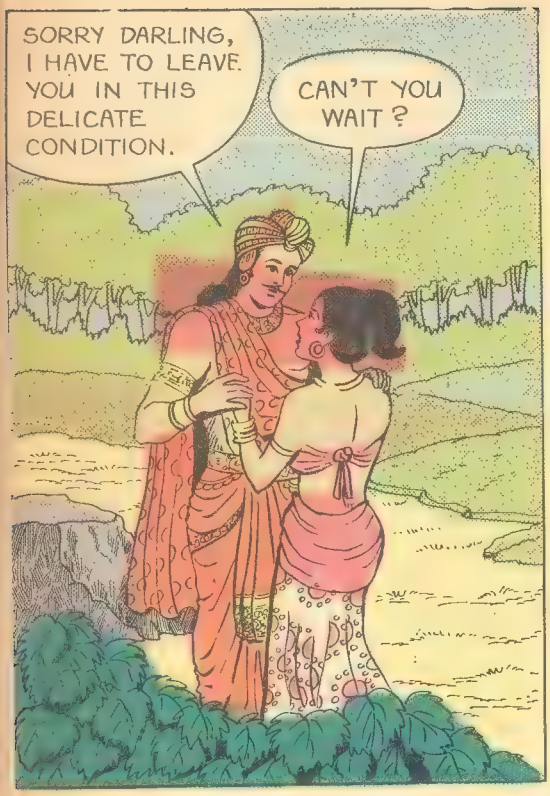
PICKING HIS WAY THROUGH THE FOREST...

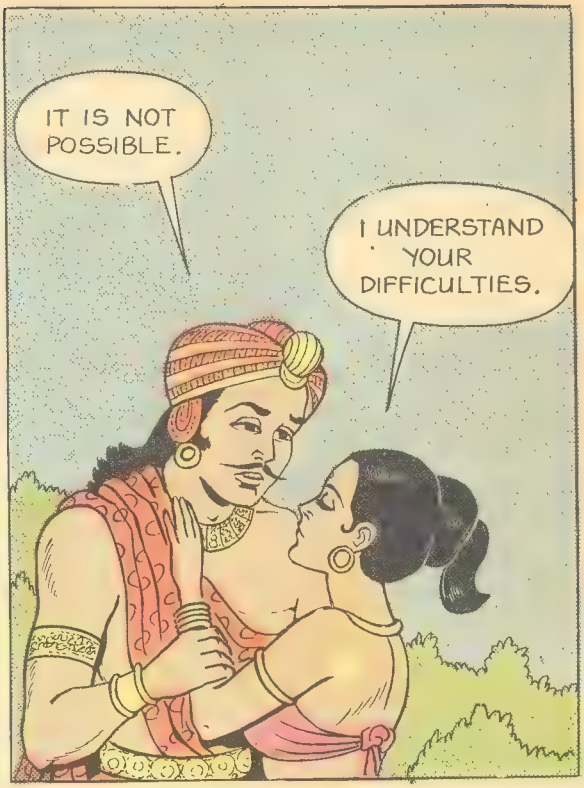
...HE WENT TO KATTHAHARI, TO BID FAREWELL.
DEAR ONE, IT IS TIME TO DEPART.
SO SOON, MAHARAJ?

DON'T YOU FORGET THAT I AM A KING.
HOW CAN I? BUT...

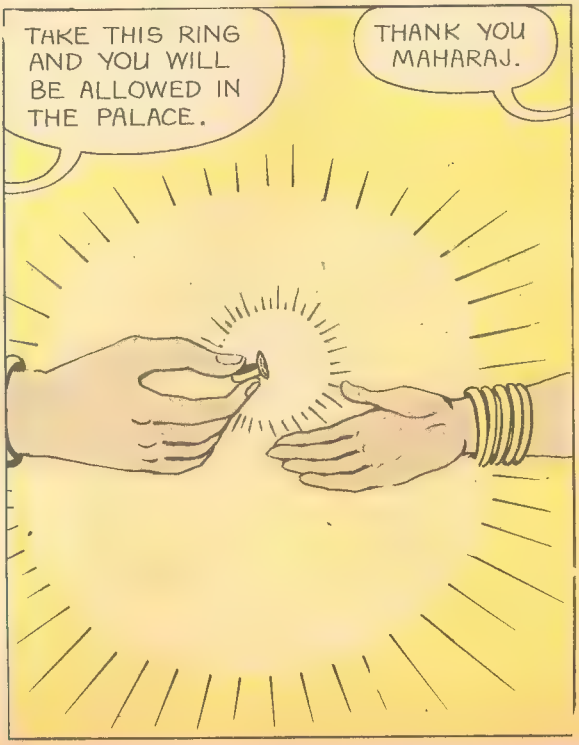
WHAT IS IT?
I AM GOING TO BE A MOTHER.

REALLY! I AM SO HAPPY.


SORRY DARLING, I HAVE TO LEAVE YOU IN THIS DELICATE CONDITION.
CAN'T YOU WAIT ?


IT IS NOT POSSIBLE.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR DIFFICULTIES.

YOU COME TO THE CAPITAL WITH OUR CHILD.
HOW CAN I ?


TAKE THIS RING AND YOU WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE PALACE.
THANK YOU MAHARAJ.

REMEMBER, IF IT'S A BOY BRING HIM IMMEDIATELY TO ME.
AND IF IT'S A GIRL?

SELL THE RING AND NOURISH HER
WHAT?

HOW CAN ONE FEEL DIFFERENT, WHETHER IT'S A BOY OR A GIRL?

WILL YOU NOT COME TO ME?
IN THAT CASE, I'LL NOT COME TO YOU.

AT THE PROPER HOUR SHE GAVE BIRTH TO A SON—BODHISATVA.

I'LL TEACH MY SON THE VIRTUE OF TRUTH.

BODHISATVA WAS BROUGHT UP WITH GREAT CARE.

THE KING SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN ME. BODHISATVA IS NOW EIGHT YEARS OLD.

ONE DAY AT THE PLAY GROUND —
HERE COMES THE FATHERLESS CHILD !
WHAT ?
THIS FATHERLESS BOY HAD BEATEN ME YESTERDAY.
WHY DO YOU CALL ME FATHERLESS
WHO IS YOUR FATHER ?
TELL US THE NAME OF YOUR FATHER.
BODHISATVA IMMEDIATELY RAN HOME.

MOTHER, WHO IS MY FATHER?
OH...!

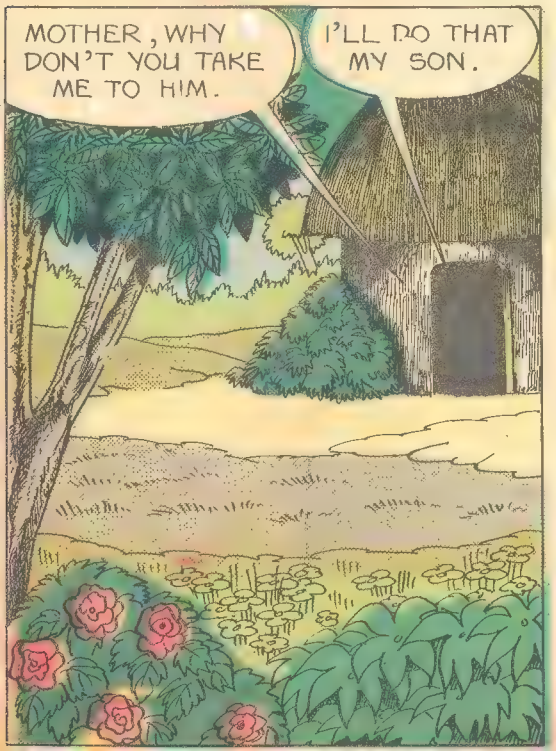
AM I FATHERLESS? IF NOT, PLEASE TELL ME MY FATHER'S NAME.
YOU ARE THE SON OF THE KING OF VARANASI.

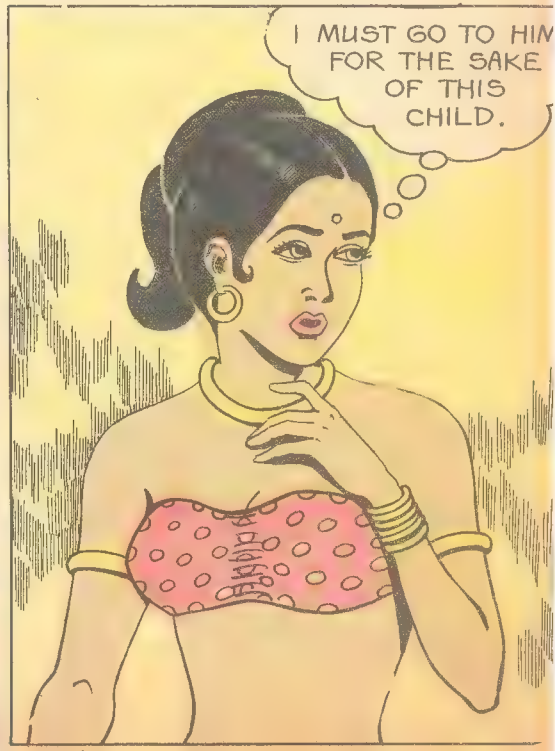
REALLY? BUT IS THERE ANY PROOF?
YES, THERE IS.

SHE OPENED A CASKET AND SHOWED HIM THE RING.

THIS IS THE RING YOUR FATHER HAS GIVEN ME.
IT'S A SIGNET RING!

I'LL PROVE TO MY FRIENDS THAT I AM NOT A FATHERLESS CHILD!


MOTHER, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE ME TO HIM.
I'LL DO THAT MY SON.


I MUST GO TO HIM FOR THE SAKE OF THIS CHILD.

SOON SHE TOOK HIM TO THE PALACE.

EH! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

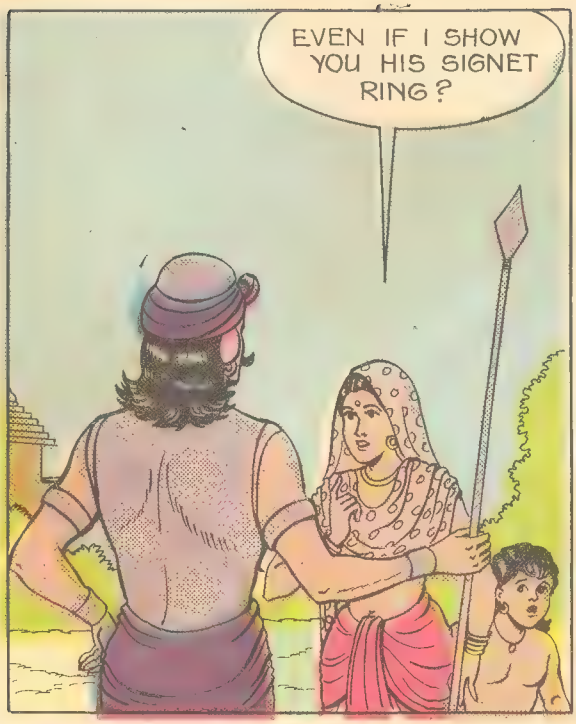
WE HAVE COME TO SEE MAHARAJ.

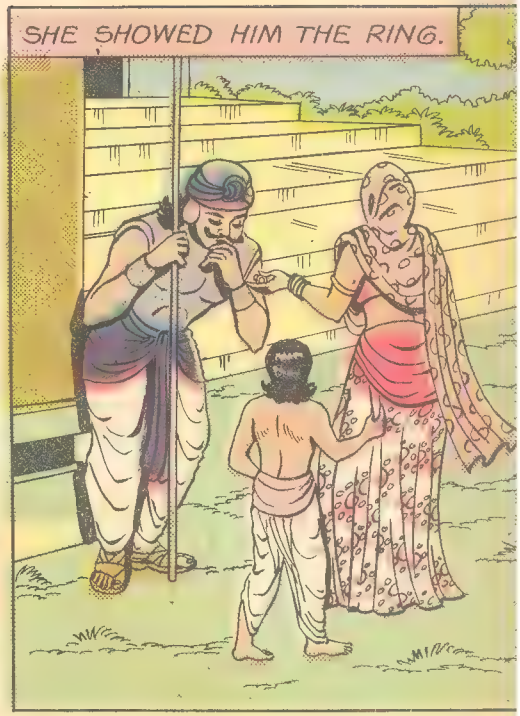
AT THIS HOUR WE DON'T ALLOW ANY ONE IN.

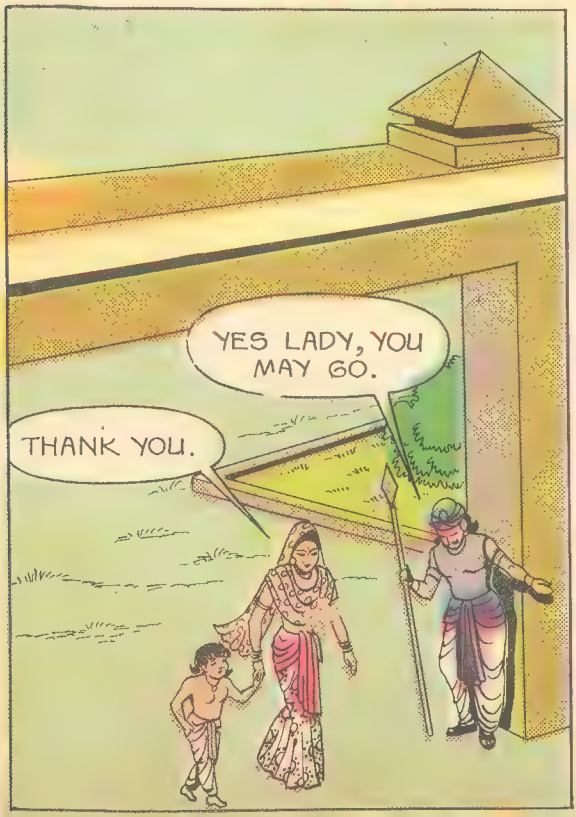
WHY?

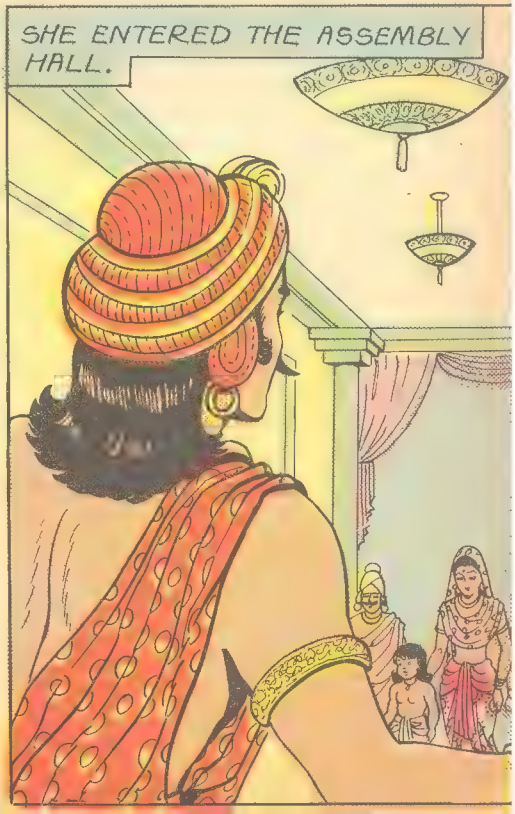
THE KING IS IN THE ASSEMBLY OF MINISTERS.

MOTHER, SHOW HIM THE RING.


EVEN IF I SHOW YOU HIS SIGNET RING?

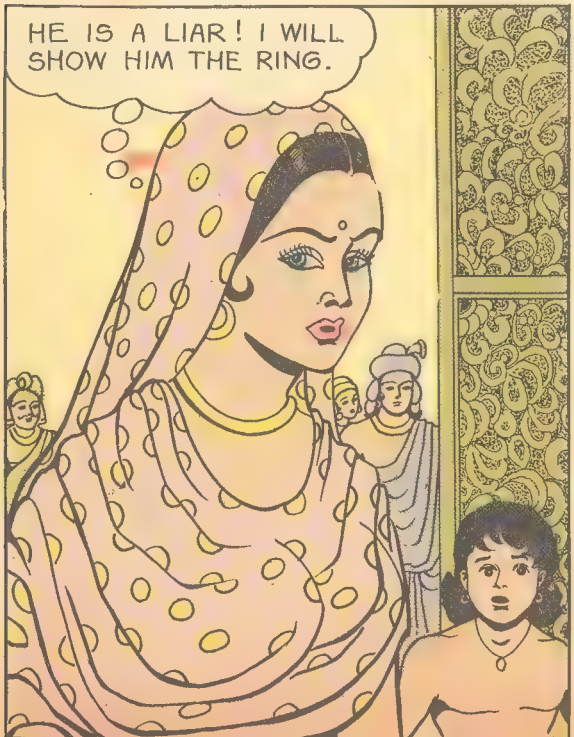

SHE SHOWED HIM THE RING.

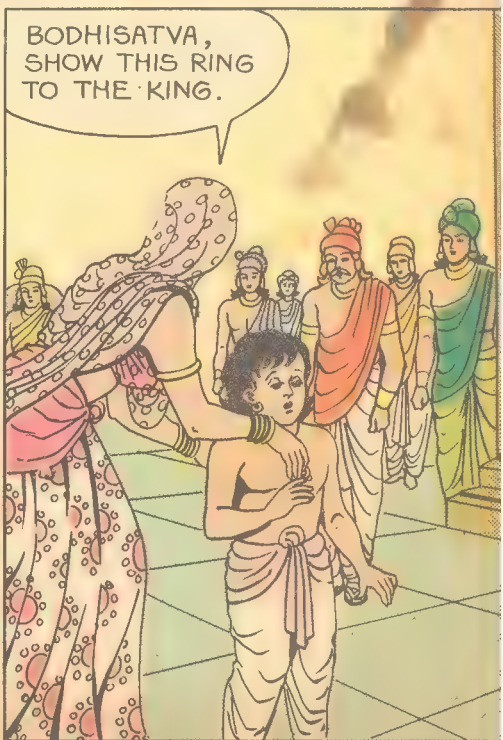

YES LADY, YOU MAY GO.
THANK YOU.

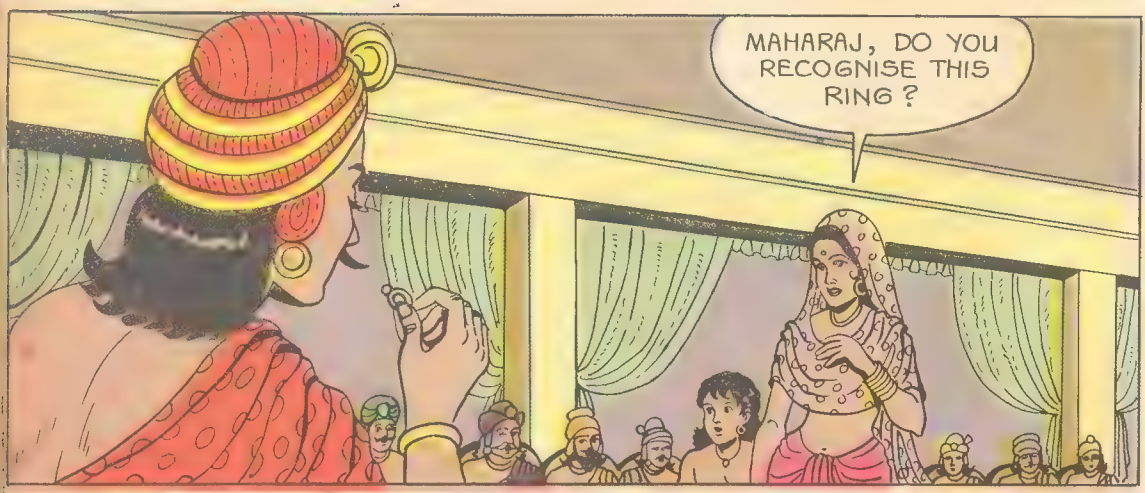

SHE ENTERED THE ASSEMBLY HALL.

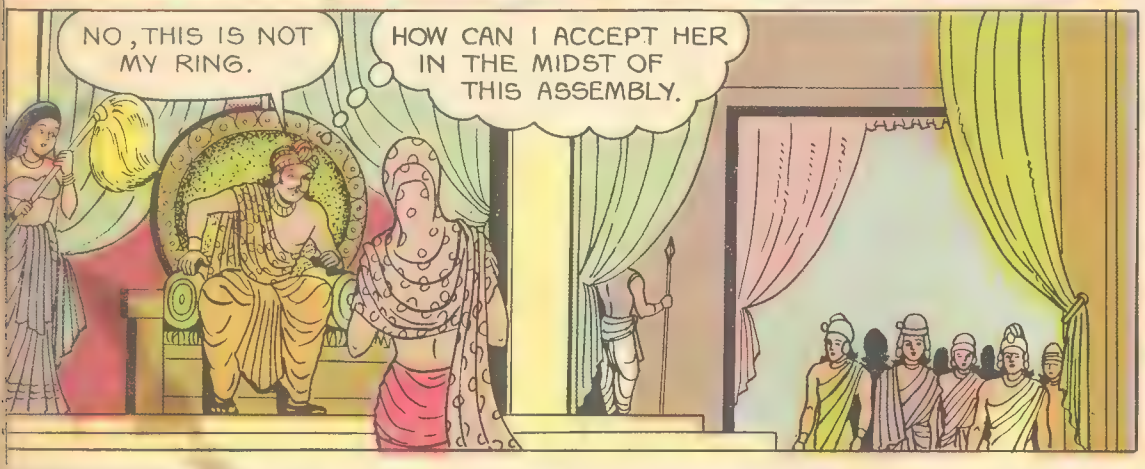
MAHARAJ, HERE IS YOUR SON.
OH ! SHE IS KATTHAHARI.
WHO IS SHE ?
WHAT IS SHE TALKING ABOUT ?
DON'T YOU KNOW ME, MAHARAJ ?
WHO ARE YOU ?

THE KING PRETENDED TO REMEMBER.





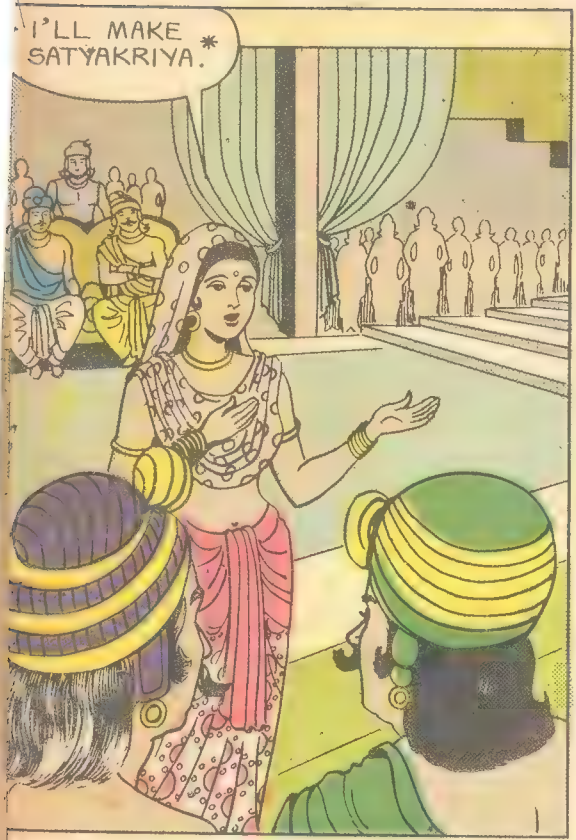

MAHARAJ, DO YOU RECOGNISE THIS RING?


NO, THIS IS NOT MY RING.
HOW CAN I ACCEPT HER IN THE MIDST OF THIS ASSEMBLY.

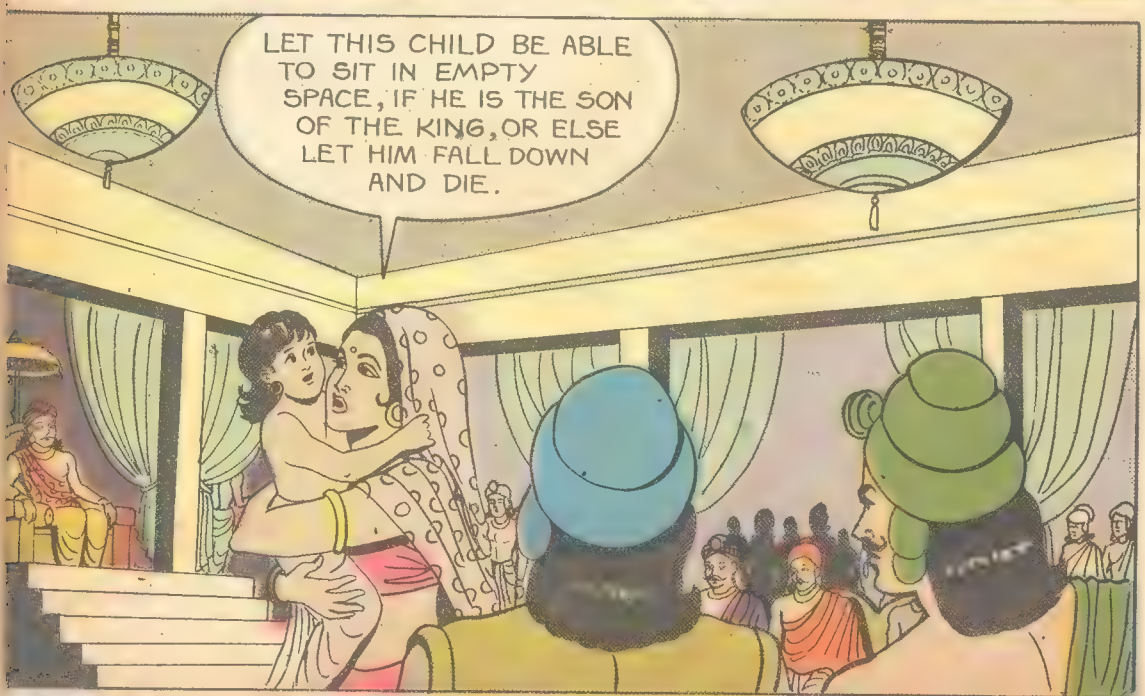
SOMETHING LOOKS FISHY!

OH GOD! WHAT SHALL I DO NOW?

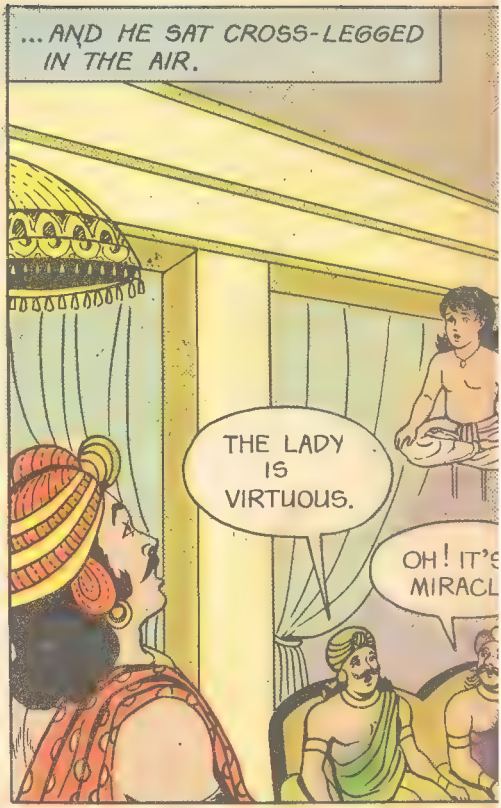
OH MOTHER, HAVEN'T YOU TAUGHT ME THAT TRUTH ALWAYS PREVAILS.
YES, AND THANK YOU FOR REMINDING ME MY CHILD.
HE HAS SHOWN ME THE RIGHT PATH.
AMATYA, GIVE ME JUSTICE. THIS KING IS A COWARD AND A LIAR.
LADY, HOW CAN YOU PROVE IT?

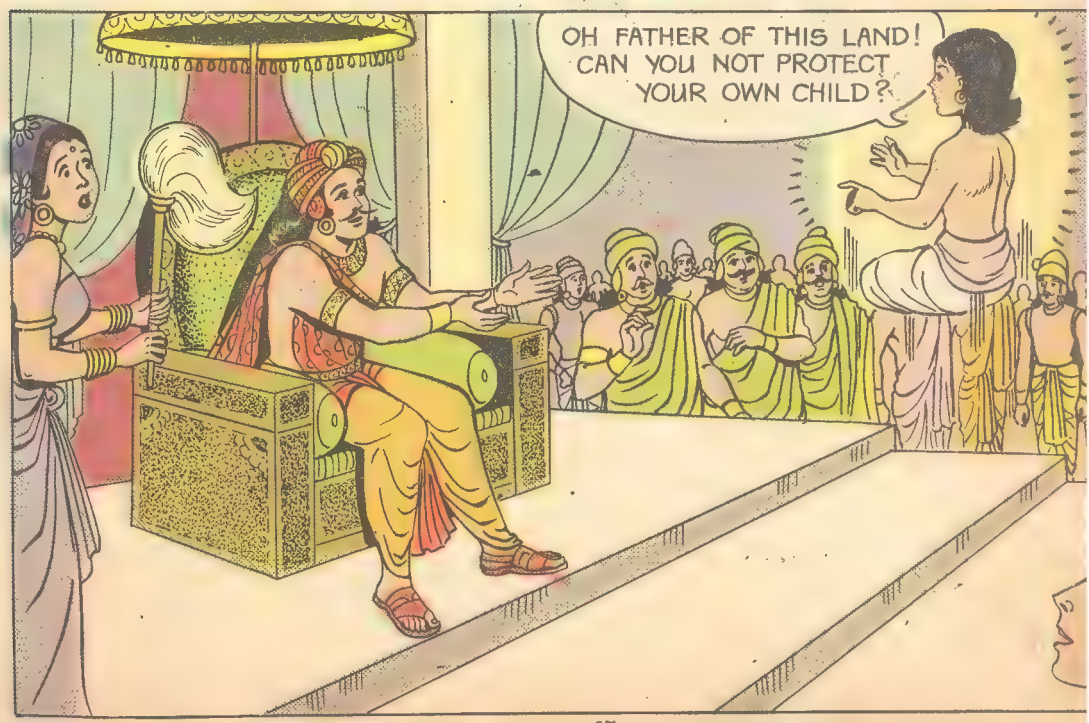

I'LL MAKE SATYAKRIYA.*

WHAT IS SATYAKRIYA?
IT'S A SORT OF A MIRACLE WHICH ONLY VIRTUOUS ONES CAN PERFORM.


LET THIS CHILD BE ABLE TO SIT IN EMPTY SPACE, IF HE IS THE SON OF THE KING, OR ELSE LET HIM FALL DOWN AND DIE.

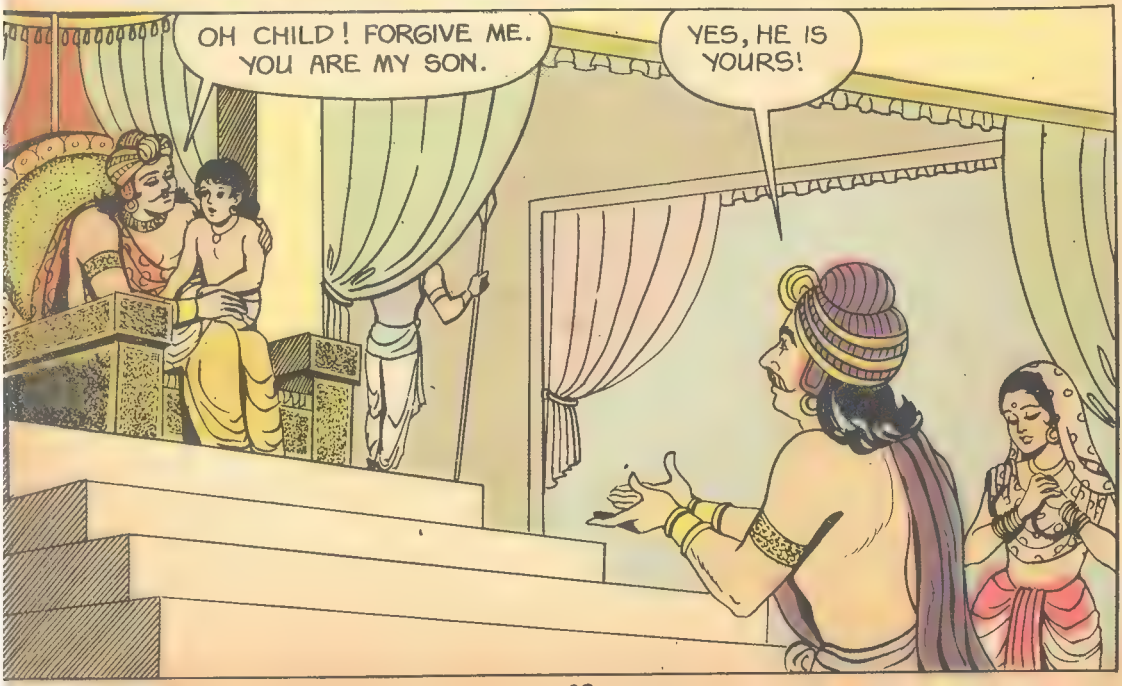
SHE THREW BODHISATVA UP...

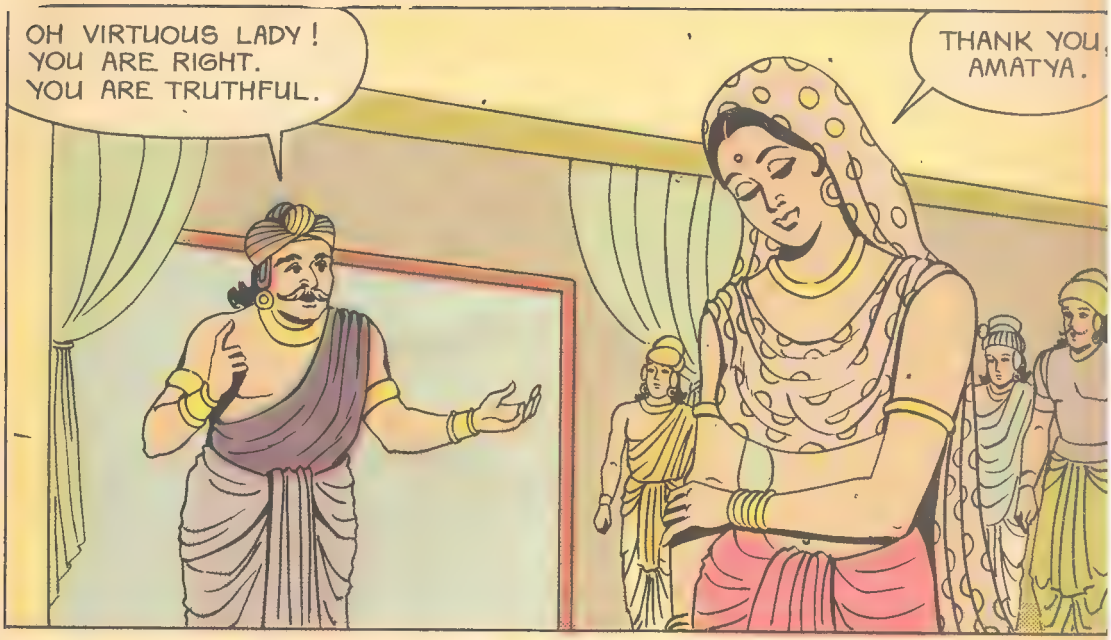

...AND HE SAT CROSS-LEGGED IN THE AIR.
THE LADY IS VIRTUOUS.
OH! IT'S MIRACL

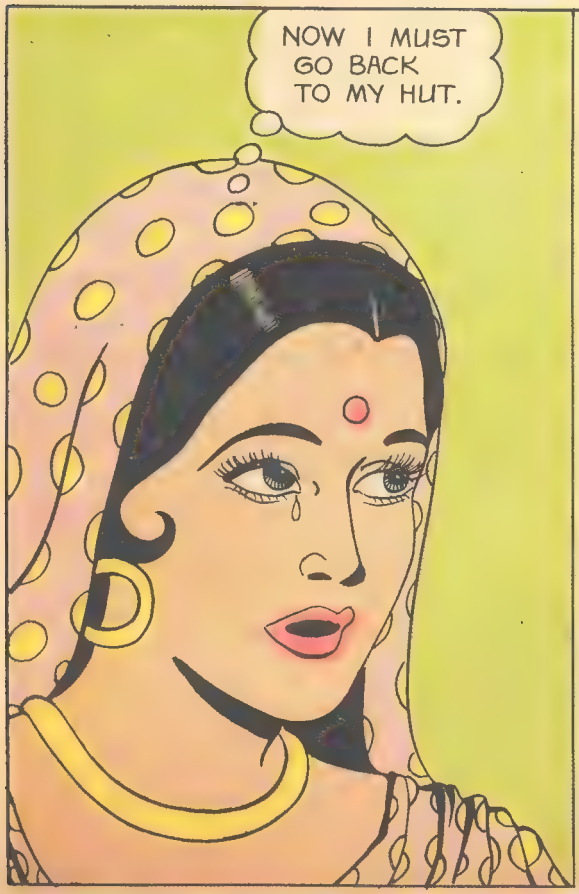

OH FATHER OF THIS LAND! CAN YOU NOT PROTECT YOUR OWN CHILD?

COME, MY CHILD. I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU.

THE LADY IS RIGHT. HE IS THE SON OF OUR KING.

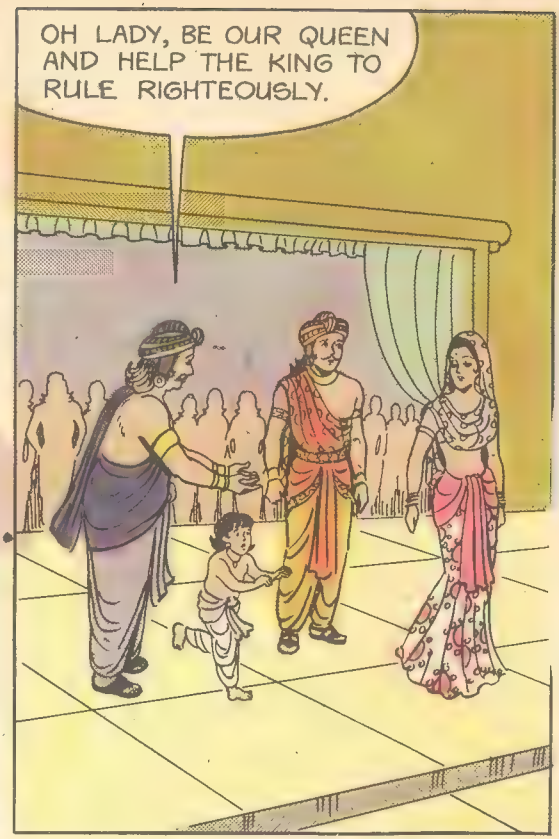

OH CHILD! FORGIVE ME. YOU ARE MY SON.
YES, HE IS YOURS!

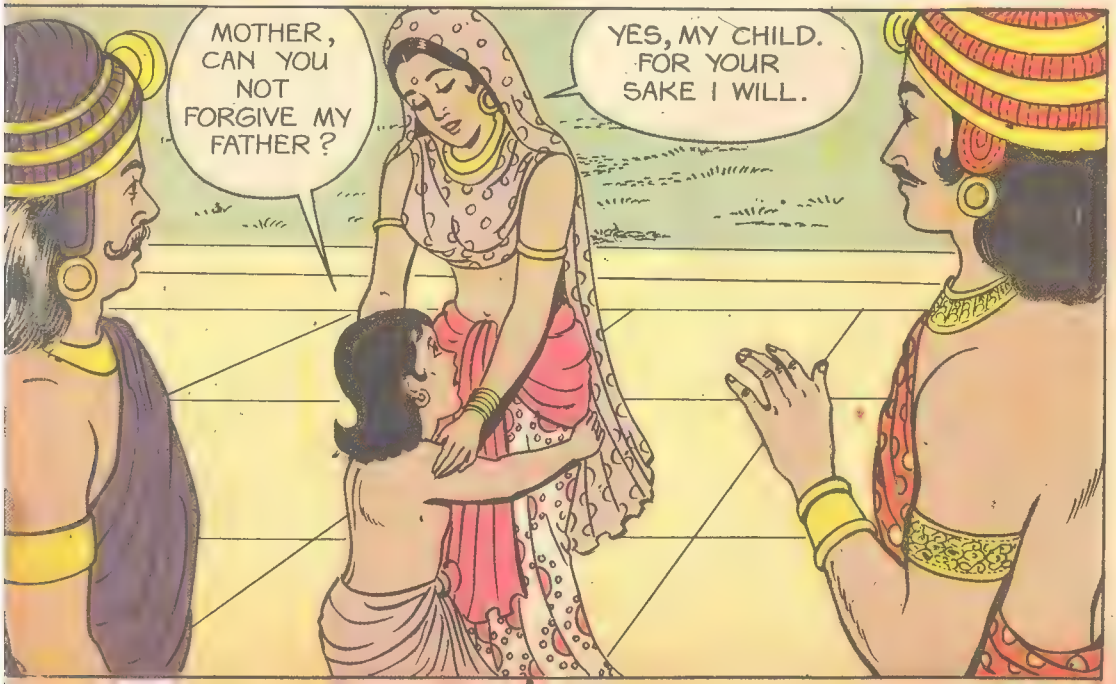

OH VIRTUOUS LADY! YOU ARE RIGHT. YOU ARE TRUTHFUL.
THANK YOU, AMATYA.


NOW I MUST GO BACK TO MY HUT.

LOOK FATHER, MOTHER IS GOING.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, KATTHAHARI.

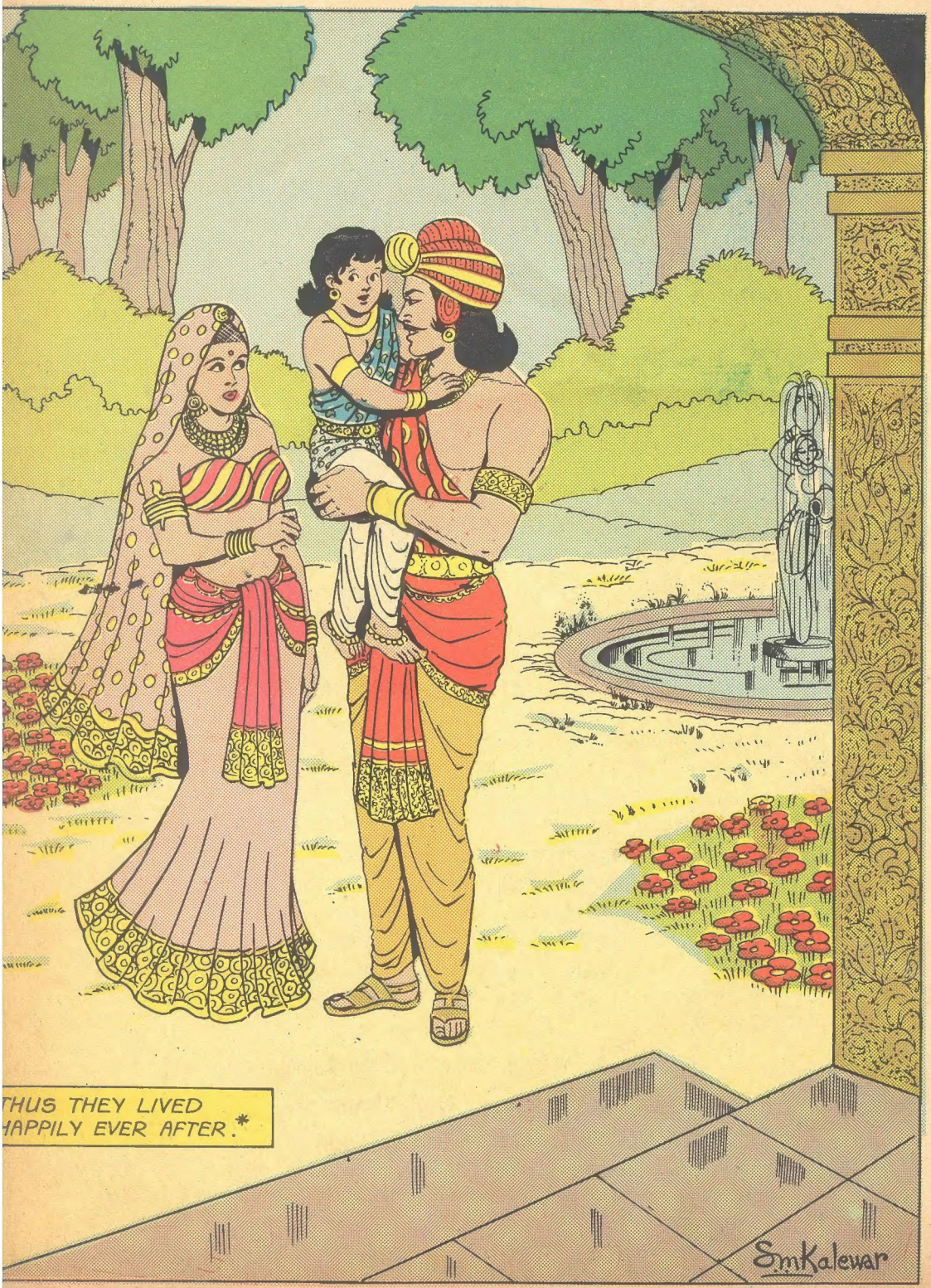

OH LADY, BE OUR QUEEN AND HELP THE KING TO RULE RIGHTEOUSLY.


MOTHER, CAN YOU NOT FORGIVE MY FATHER?
YES, MY CHILD. FOR YOUR SAKE I WILL.

THE KING MADE KATTHAHARI HIS CHIEF QUEEN.

BODHISATVA ALSO BECAME THE YUVARAJA.*

* YUVARAJA = CROWN PRINCE


THUS THEY LIVED
HAPPILY EVER AFTER.*
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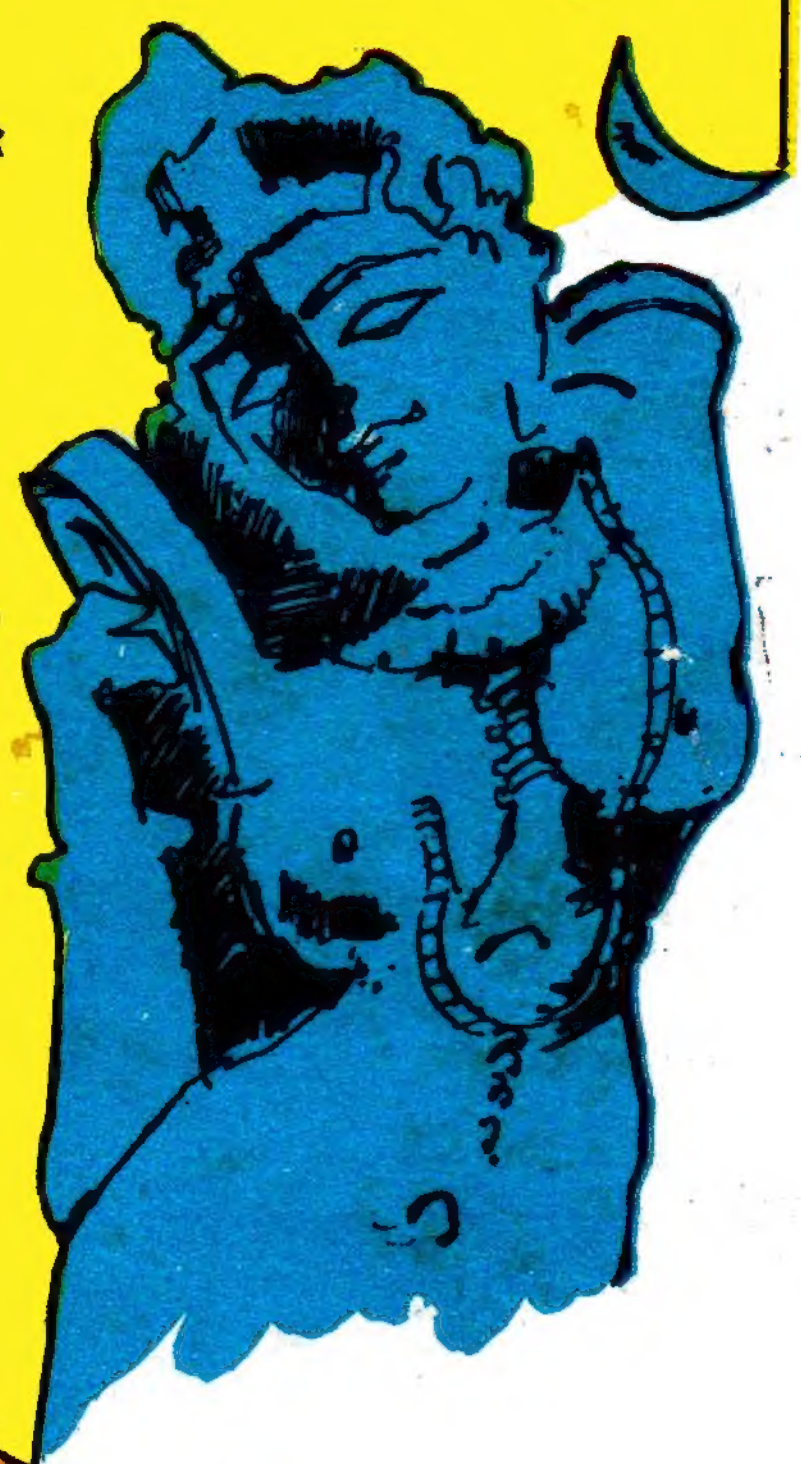

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